

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a glass gob, comprising the steps of :
 receiving a down-flowing molten glass on a molding die;
 moving down the molding die at a speed higher than a down-flowing
 speed of the molten glass so as to cut the molten glass;
 remaining the molten glass with a predetermined weight on the molding
 die; and
 spraying the molten glass with gas in order to form the glass gob under
 such a condition that the molten glass is floated or slightly floated,
 wherein the receiving step is carried out by spraying the molten glass
 with gas having a flow rate lower than the gas used in the spraying step, or the
 receiving step is carried out without performing the gas spraying.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
 duration between the receiving step and the spraying step falls within a
 range of one second or shorter.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein:
 the gas flow rate in the receiving step falls within a range between 5 %
 and 20% for the gas flow rate in the spraying step.
4. A method as claimed in any one of claim 1 or 2, wherein:
 the molten glass has a viscosity between 30 and 2 poises.
5. A method as claimed in any one of claim 1 or 2, further comprising
 the step of:
 taking out the glass gob from the molding die when a temperature of
 the glass gob falls within a range of a glass transition point or lower.
6. A method of manufacturing a molded glass product, comprising the
 steps of:

reheating the glass gob manufactured by the method claimed in claim 1 or 2;

press-molding the glass gob so as to produce the glass molded products.

7. A method of manufacturing an optical device, comprising the steps of:

manufacturing an optical device blank by the method claimed in claim 6; and

grinding and polishing the optical device blank in order to produce the optical device.

8. A apparatus for manufacturing a glass gob comprising:

a molding die which has a gas spraying opening on a molding surface;
a molten glass supplying unit which supplies a molten glass to the molding die;

a molding die up/down moving unit which moves down the molding die at a speed higher than a down-flowing speed of the molten glass in order to cut the molten glass and remain the molten glass with a predetermined weight on the molding die;

a gas supply unit which supplies gas splayed from the gas spraying opening of the molding die; and

an adjustment unit which adjusts a flow rate of the gas sprayed from the gas spraying opening of the molding die,

wherein the adjustment unit adjusts the flow rate of a gas flow generated when the molten glass flow is supplied onto the molding die such that the gas flow rate is lower than a gas flow rate generated when the molten glass is left on the molding die with a predetermined weight .

a flowing path opening/closing unit which opens the gas flowing path when the molding die is raised up by the molding die up/down moving means and which closes the gas flowing path when the molding die is lowered down by the molding die up/down moving unit.